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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 21, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. PETERSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2658. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H. R. 2658) "An Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BOND, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BURNS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. BYRD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REID, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Janu-

ary 7, 2003, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

CHILEAN HONEST TRADE

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to move past the free versus fair trade debate that has dominated the considerations in this Chamber for most of the last five Congresses, where each side uses code words to ignore the inconvenient arguments of each other, or perhaps to not address them at all. It is time to deal with honest trade policy.

We can start later this week with action on the Chile free trade agreement, a spirited open debate which should lead to a strong bipartisan vote for approval. I would urge my colleagues not to reflexively reject agreement because of either concerns about the previous trade promotion authority debate which, frankly, I had reservations about myself; or somehow get bogged down in debating what is not before us.

The best way to help future debates is if we all deal meaningfully with what is before us in the context of this agreement. And the Chile free trade agreement offers much for the United States, make no mistake about it. We gain far more than we give up in terms of tariff protections.

Right now the average United States export to Chile is taxed at approximately 5.6 percent versus an average tariff for the imports to the United States from Chile at approximately 0.5 percent. Indeed, two-thirds of the Chil-

ean imports to the United States are duty free. We gain far more than we give up.

We are also currently at a severe disadvantage relative to other major trading partners with Chile. The large economies of the Western Hemisphere, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, already have preferential access to the Chilean market, as does the European Union. As a result, we are losing access as it relates to the percentage from our other competitors in those areas.

I urge my colleagues to look at their own region as I have done, for instance, in my home State of Oregon. I have seen if we were able to enact this agreement, there would be more opportunities for export.

For instance, Freight Liner is headquartered in my community. It is one of the most efficient truck manufacturing operations in the entire world, but we have lost access because of the aforementioned disadvantage that we face from trucks exported from Mexico, Brazil or the European Union. Enactment of this agreement will make it possible for us to be more competitive in my community.

There is also opportunity to remedy trade policy as they occur. Recently there was a controversy with Chile regarding a potential dumping of frozen raspberries on our market, to the detriment of people in my State. We were able to use the protections under the trade agreements that we have to put a stop to it. This is an opportunity for us to deal meaningfully with labor and environmental protections. The ones in Chile are the strongest in Latin America, and it is important that we act accordingly to support them. Indeed, we must act to deal with the broader values that are shared with Chile.

Mr. Speaker, what kind of government behavior do we want to encourage with our trade agreements? Chile represents an island of stability in

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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